

MARVEL

3

**ABNETT
COUCEIRO
MILLA**

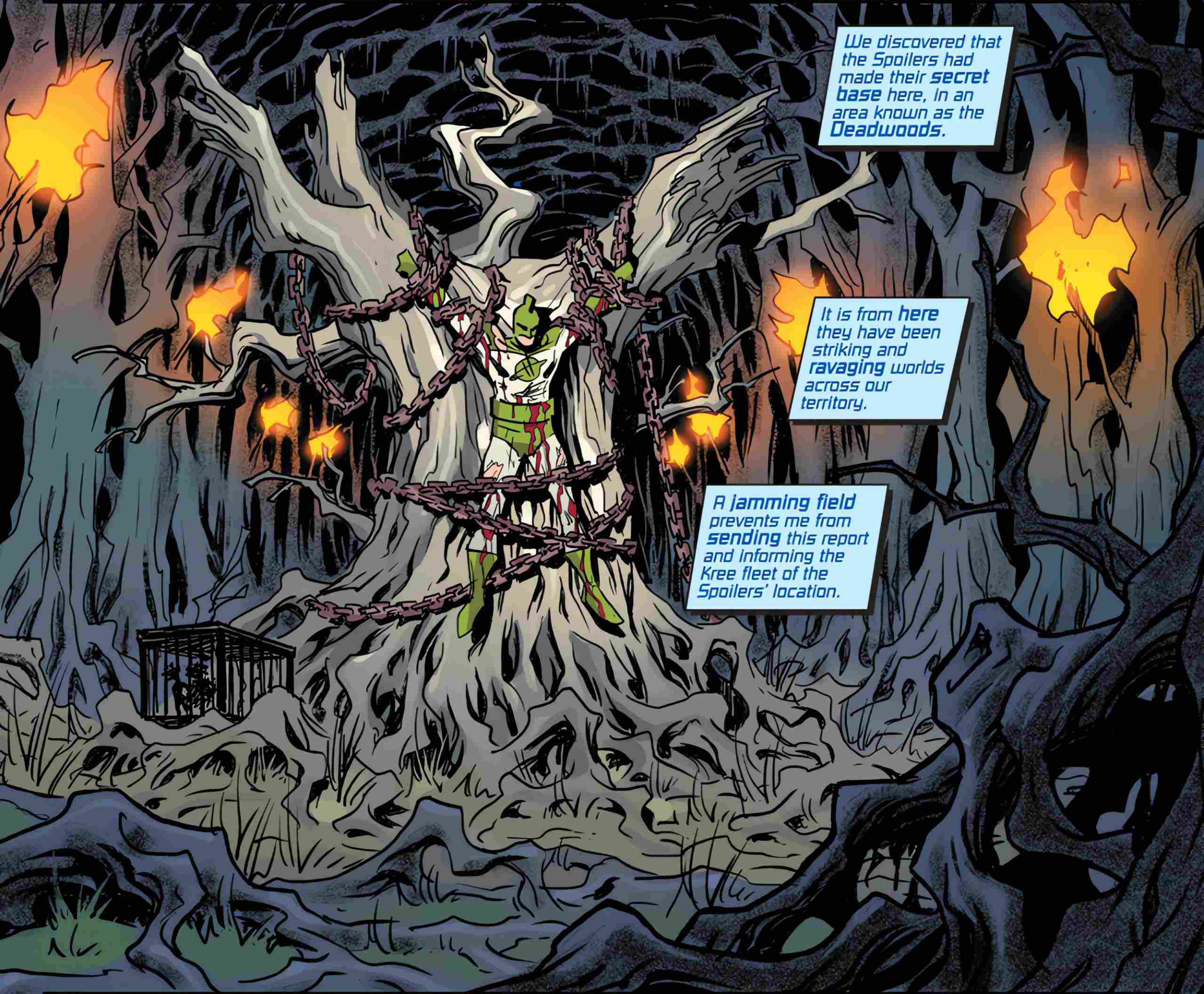
GROOT





This is acting Captain Mar-Vell of the Kree Starforce. I am recording this in the hope that it will eventually be recovered.

Captain So-Lar is dead. We had set down on Planet X to repatriate three infants named Groot, Gleeef and Tweeg, who had been stolen from their homeworld by the notorious Spoilers.



We discovered that the Spoilers had made their secret base here, in an area known as the Deadwoods.

It is from here they have been striking and ravaging worlds across our territory.

A jamming field prevents me from sending this report and informing the Kree fleet of the Spoilers' location.



I have been captured by the Spoilers, along with Tweeg and Gleeef. There is little chance of escape or survival.

T-TWEEG!

GLEEEL!



STAY CALM, MY FRIENDS. I'LL FIGURE A WAY OUT OF THIS...

For we have encountered the Spoilers' leader, Agz, and discovered why they have made Planet X their lair...

...this world is his home.
Though mutated and
aggressive, Agz is one
of the Flora colossi.

I AM
AGZ!

I AM
AGZ!

I AM
AGZ!

MAR-VELL.
CAPTAIN, KREE
STARFORCE. SERIAL
ESH-KET-IMMU-TWO-
DRA-ONE.

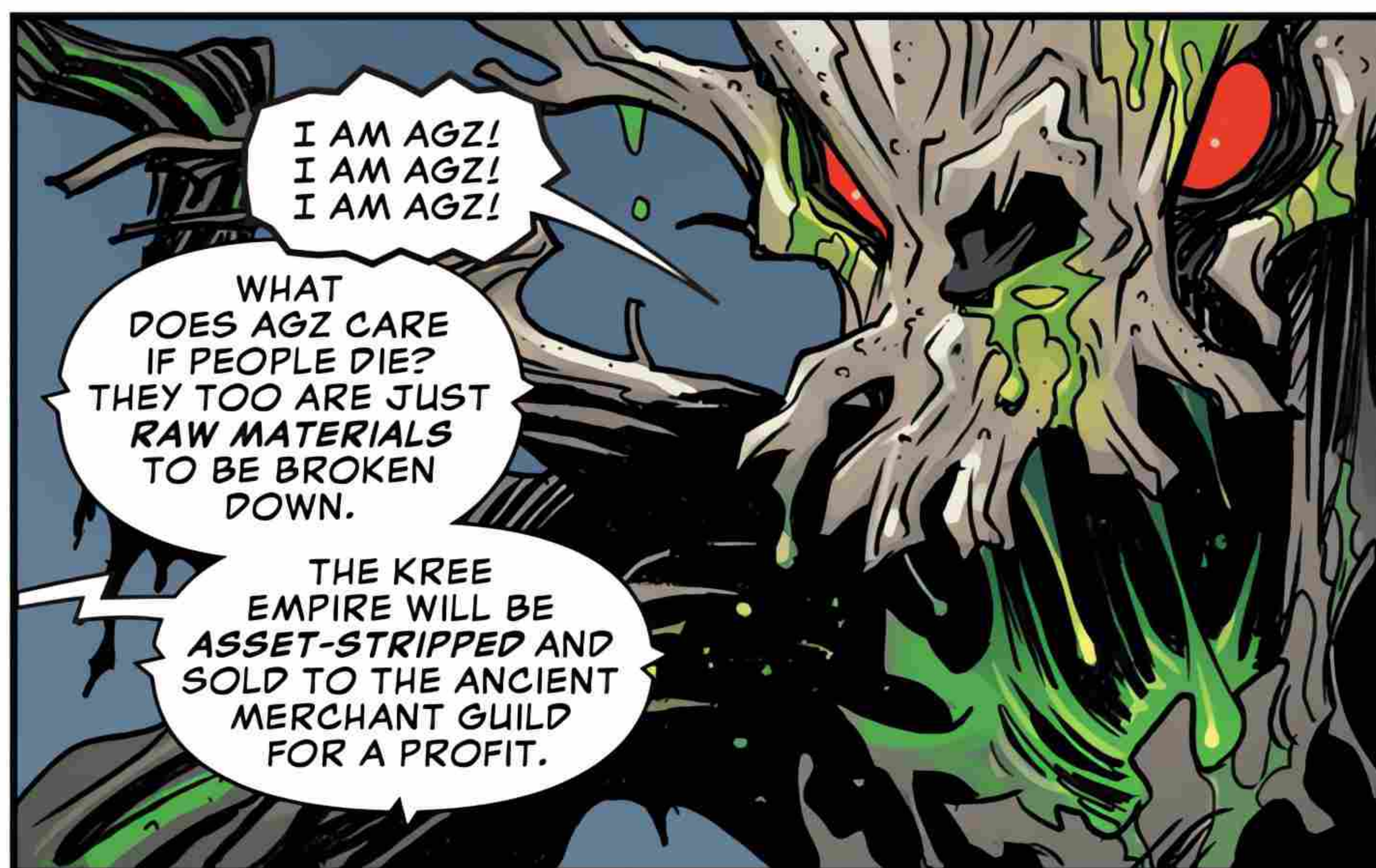
NAME,
RANK, SERIAL
NUMBER.

T-TWEEG!

GLEEF!

I AM
AGZ!

I HAVE
NO IDEA
WHAT YOU'RE
SAYING.





WE'LL SEE
WHAT THE
STARFORCE
HAS TO SAY
ABOUT
THAT--

I AM AGZ!
I AM AGZ!
I AM AGZ!

YOU ARE
A STARFORCE
CAPTAIN. YOU WILL
SUPPLY AGZ WITH
COMMAND CODES
TO OVERRIDE ALL
KREE MILITARY
SYSTEMS.

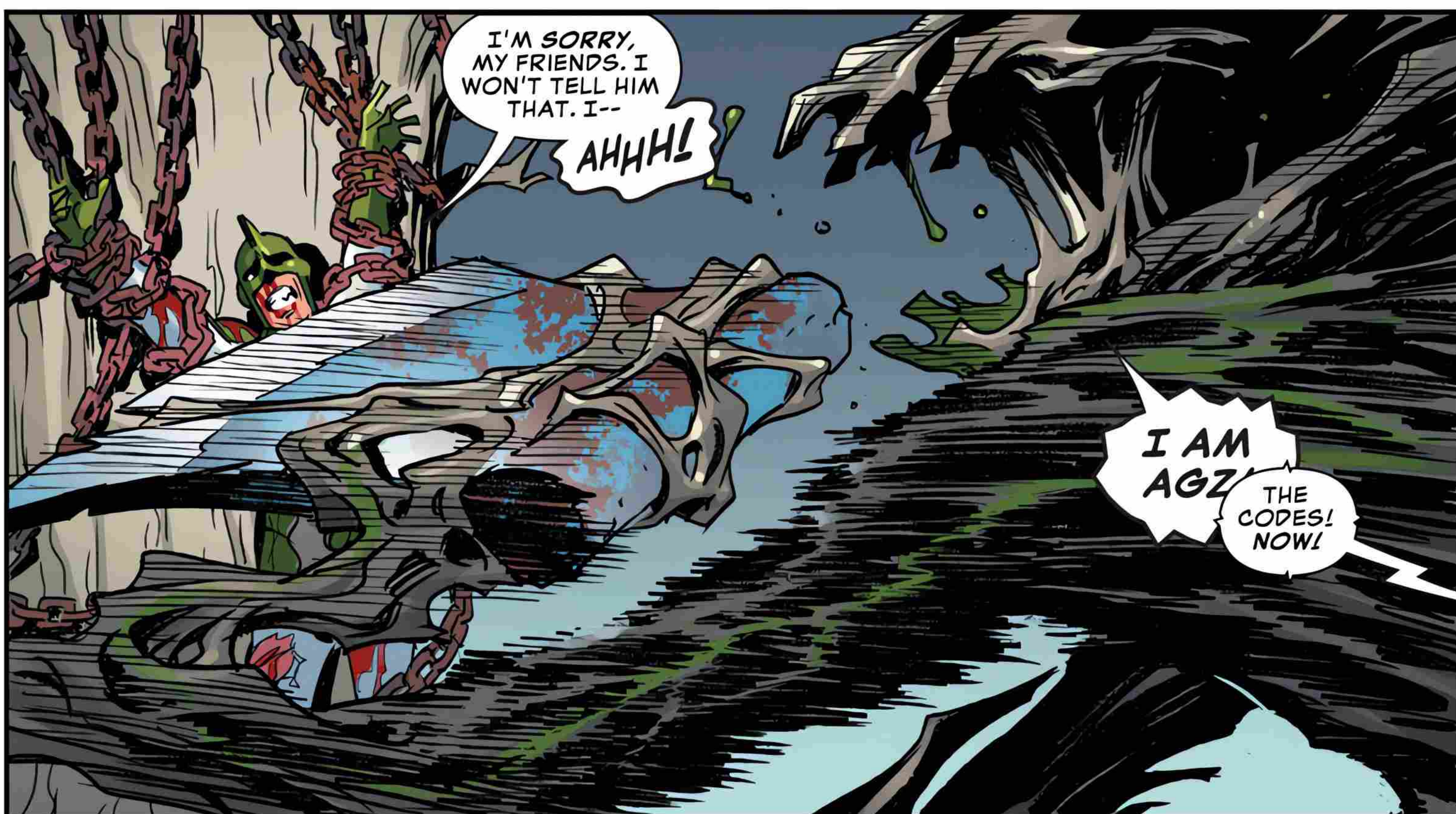


NOT A
CHANCE.



GLEEF?!

T-TWEEG?!



I'M SORRY,
MY FRIENDS. I
WON'T TELL HIM
THAT. I--

AHHH!

I AM
AGZ!

THE
CODES!
NOW!



MAR-VELL.
CAPTAIN, KREE
STARFORCE.
SERIAL ESH-KET-
IMMU-TWO-
DRA-ONE.

THAT'S
ALL YOU'RE
GETTING
FROM ME.

Before he was a Guardian of the Galaxy ... before the Grootfall ... a young Groot sapling lived a life of tranquility on his serene homeworld. But when his home is threatened, he must accept his heroic destiny!

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS...

GROOT

PREVIOUSLY...

When a verdant alien world, Planet X, is attacked by a mysterious group called the Spoilers, the young native Groot and his friends, Tweeg and Gleef, find themselves kidnapped and flung across the galaxy. Luckily for them, they're rescued by an unseasoned private in the Kree Starforce, Mar-Vell.

Mar-Vell attempts to return Groot and his friends home, but the plan goes disastrously wrong when it's revealed that Planet X is the Spoilers' base of operations! Mar-Vell teams up with a fellow victim of the Spoilers, a Centaurian hunter named Yondar. But now he must face the Spoiler leader ... the mad *Flora colossus* Agz!

writer
DAN

ABNETT

artist
DAMIAN

COUCEIRO

color artist
MATT

MILLA

letterer
VC's TRAVIS

LANHAM

cover artist
LEE

GARBETT

variant cover artists

SALVADOR LARROCA & FRANK D'ARMATA

designer

CARLOS LAO

assistant editors

NOAH SHARMA & KAT GREGOROWICZ

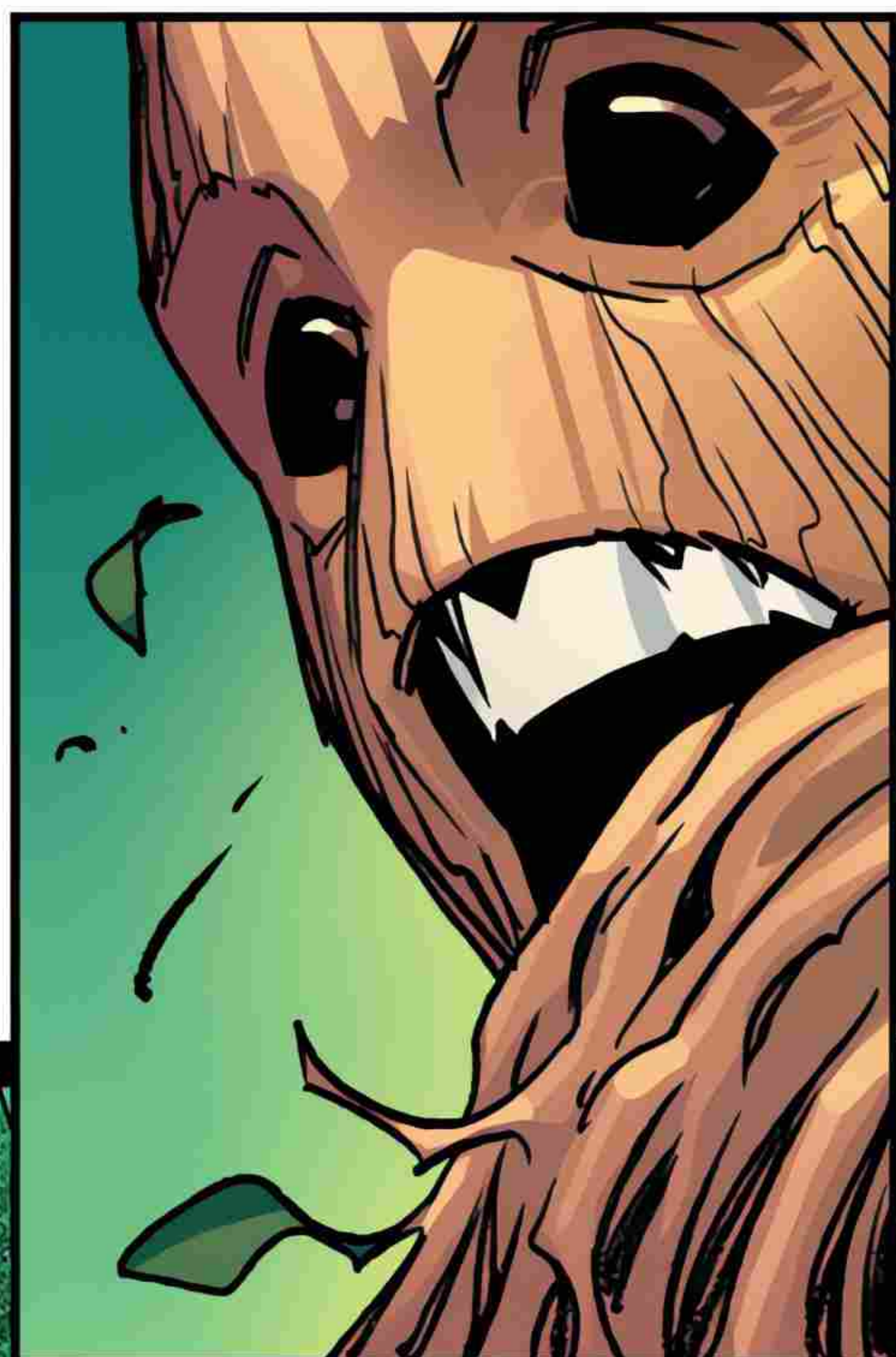
editor

DARREN SHAN

editor in chief

C.B. CEBULSKI

Groot created by STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & JACK KIRBY







THE SPOILERS ARE HUNTING FOR US, AND THEY WILL FIND US SOONER OR LATER.

I AM GROOT.



THEY HAVE MADE YOUR WORLD THEIR LAIR BECAUSE THEY ARE LED BY ONE OF YOUR OWN.

YOU SAW HIM. AGZ.

I AM GROOT.

NO, I DON'T KNOW HOW HE BECAME SO TWISTED AND VICIOUS EITHER.

I AM GROOT.



THANK YOU.

GROOT, THE SPOILERS WILL KEEP PLUNDERING OTHER WORLDS AND LOOTING THEIR RESOURCES.

THEY HAVE GROWN BOLD.

THE WORLDS OF MY CENTAURI PEOPLE, THE KREE EMPIRE...ALL WILL FALL, SO LONG AS THERE IS A PROFIT TO BE MADE.



I AM GROOT.

MY "SECRET"? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

WE MUST FIND A WAY TO SEND A MESSAGE. TO WARN THE KREE EMPIRE--



I AM GROOT.

I AM SORRY, NO. THE STARFORCE CAPTAIN AND YOUR FRIENDS GLEEF AND TWEEG...



"...I AM AFRAID THEY WERE CAPTURED... OR KILLED."

I AM AGZ!

GIVE AGZ THE OVERRIDE CODES!

NHH!
I TOLD YOU.
I WON'T.



WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, AGZ?

I DETECT SOME DISEASE IN YOU. LIKE MITES OR A FUNGUS.

IS IT A NATURAL PARASITE?
CAN IT BE CURED?

IS IT THIS PAIN THAT HAS DRIVEN YOU MAD?



I AM AGZ.



I AM AGZ!

AGZ IS NOT SICK! AGZ IS NOT WEAK!
YOU WILL GIVE AGZ THE CODES,
OR AGZ WILL KILL YOU!



I AM AGZ!

TO
DEMONSTRATE
AGZ'S INTENT,
AGZ WILL
DEVOUR YOUR
COMPANIONS
FIRST.

GLEEF!

TWEEG!



WAIT!

DEVOUR
THEM? IS THAT
HOW YOU KEEP YOUR
INFESTATION AT BAY?
YOU FEED OFF YOUR
OWN KIND TO
REGROW?

IS THAT WHY YOU KEEP
COMING BACK HERE? IS THAT
WHY YOU HAVE *SPARED* SOME
OF THE FORESTS INSTEAD OF
RAZING THE ENTIRE PLANET?



AGZ,
LET ME HELP
YOU. THE HIGH
SCIENCES OF THE
KREE EMPIRE
COULD FIND A
CURE, AND--



I AM
AGZ!

BE
SILENT!

THEN
YOU GIVE
ME NO
CHOICE.



YOU GOT THE
DROP ON ME WHEN
WE FIRST MET, AND
I HAVE NO HOPE OF
DEFEATING YOU AND
YOUR MECHANIZED
HOST.

BUT I AM
CAPTAIN MAR-VELL
OF THE KREE
STARFORCE...



SH-KRAKK

...AND
THOUGH I
AM DOOMED
TO LOSE, I
WILL STILL
FIGHT.



ZZAK ZAK

"WE
CAN'T KEEP
THIS UP..."



...WE MUST
FIND A PLACE
TO HIDE.



I AM
GROOT.

I TOLD YOU.
I DON'T HAVE A
SECRET. I--

I AM
GROOT.

YOU ARE
PERCEPTIVE,
LITTLE ONE...

"YEARS AGO, I CHOSE
TO LEAVE THE CENTAURI
WORLDS AND EXPLORE THE
STARS. ON MY TRAVELS, I
SAW A WORLD THAT HAD
BEEN ATTACKED BY THE
SPOILERS. RAVAGED.



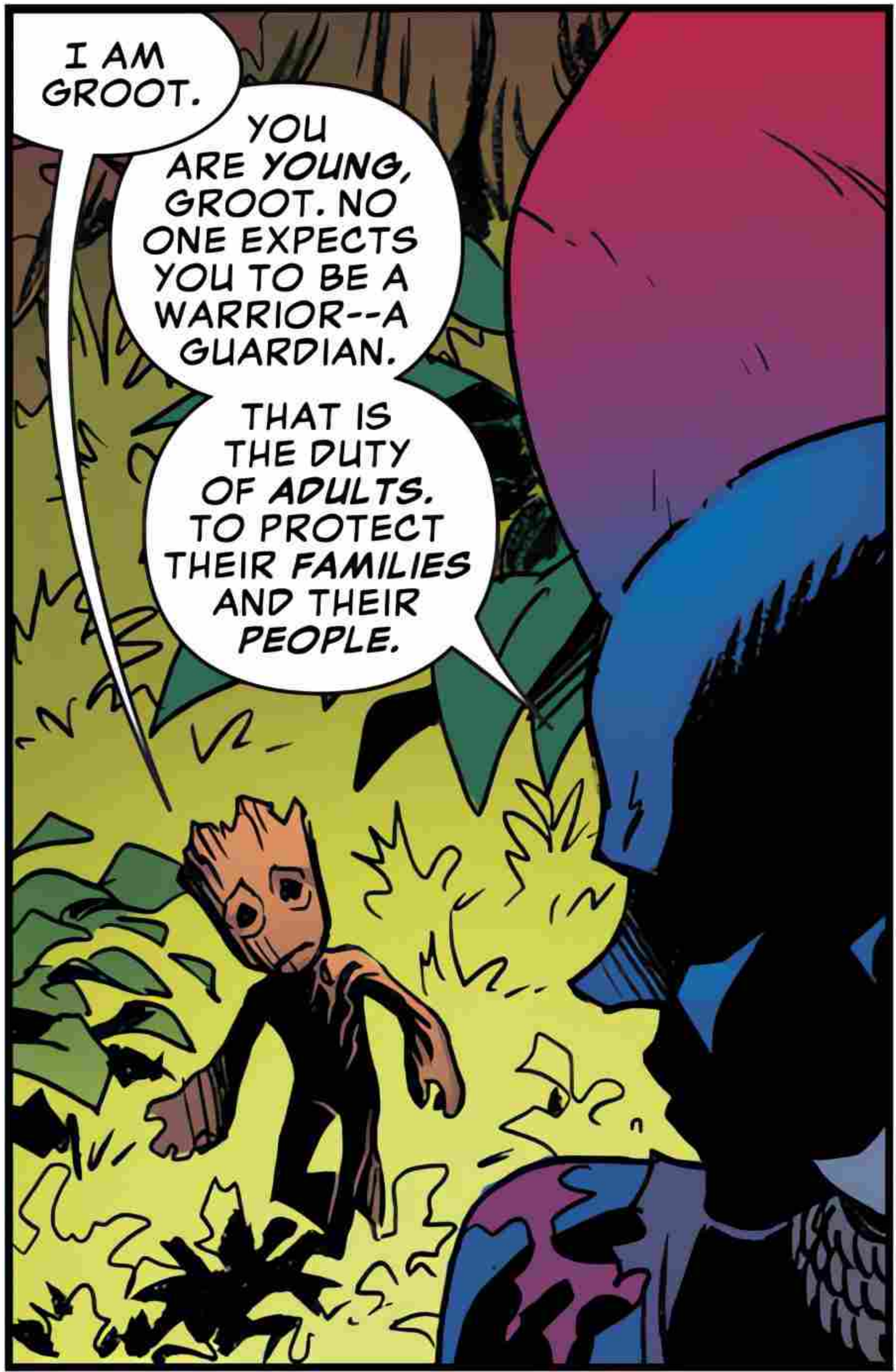
"I DID NOT THINK IT
MY BUSINESS. I DID
NOT *SPEAK OUT* OR
SEND A WARNING.

"WHEN I AT LAST RETURNED
HOME, I FOUND MY COLONY
HAD ALSO BEEN LEVELED
BY AGZ AND HIS FORCES.

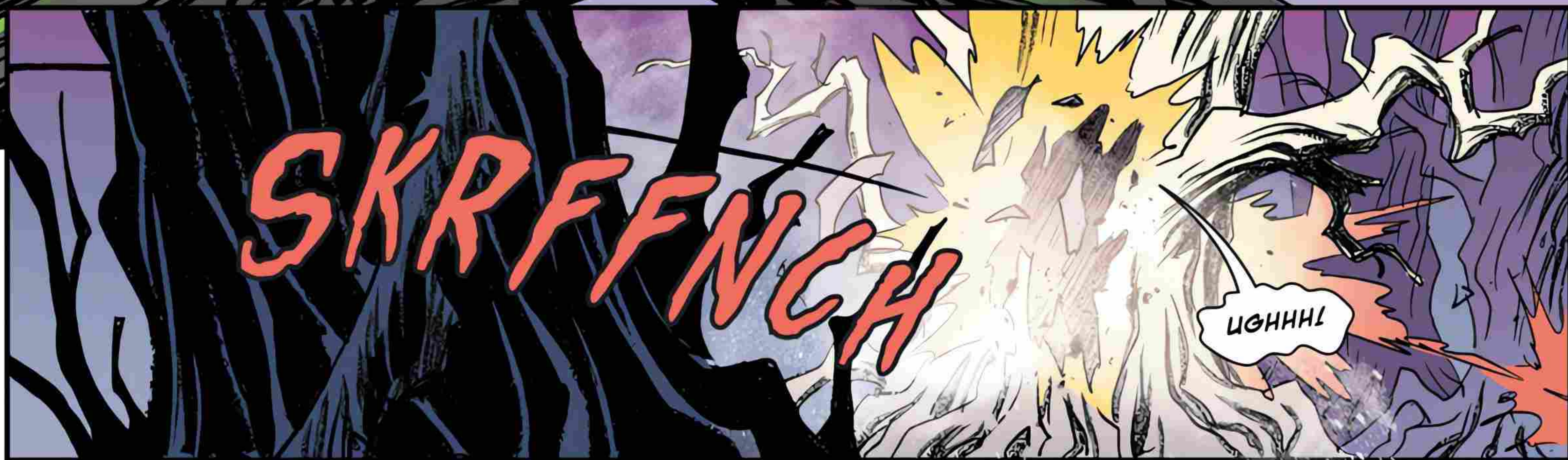
"I WAS NOT THERE TO DEFEND
IT. I COULD HAVE *PREVENTED* IT.
I COULD HAVE *SAVED* IT, GROOT,
AND MANY MORE WORLDS.

"VENGEANCE IS ALL I HAVE
LEFT. I SWORE TO HUNT THE
SPOILERS AND SPARE *OTHER*
WORLDS THE SAME FATE."

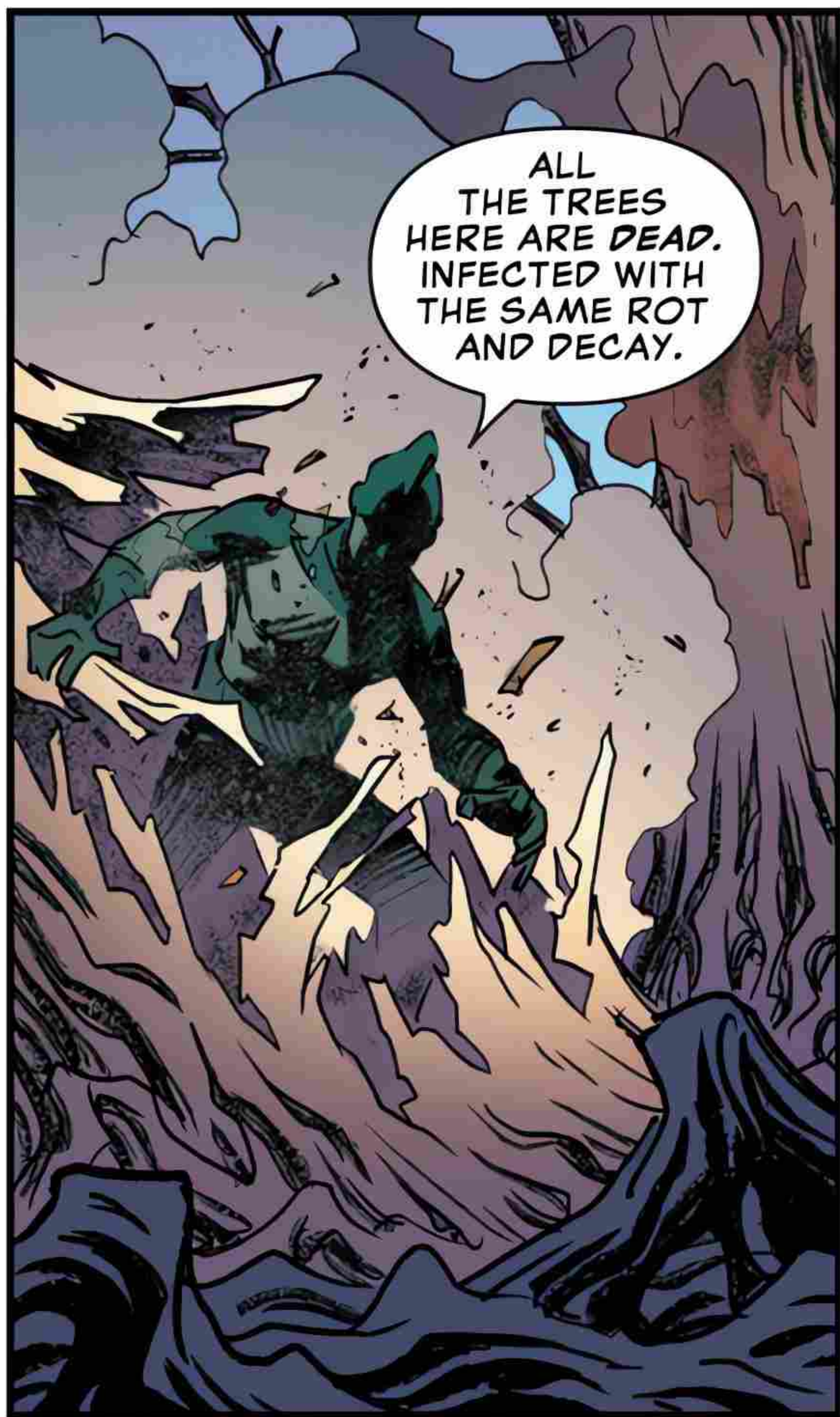




"--GROOT!
COME BACK!"



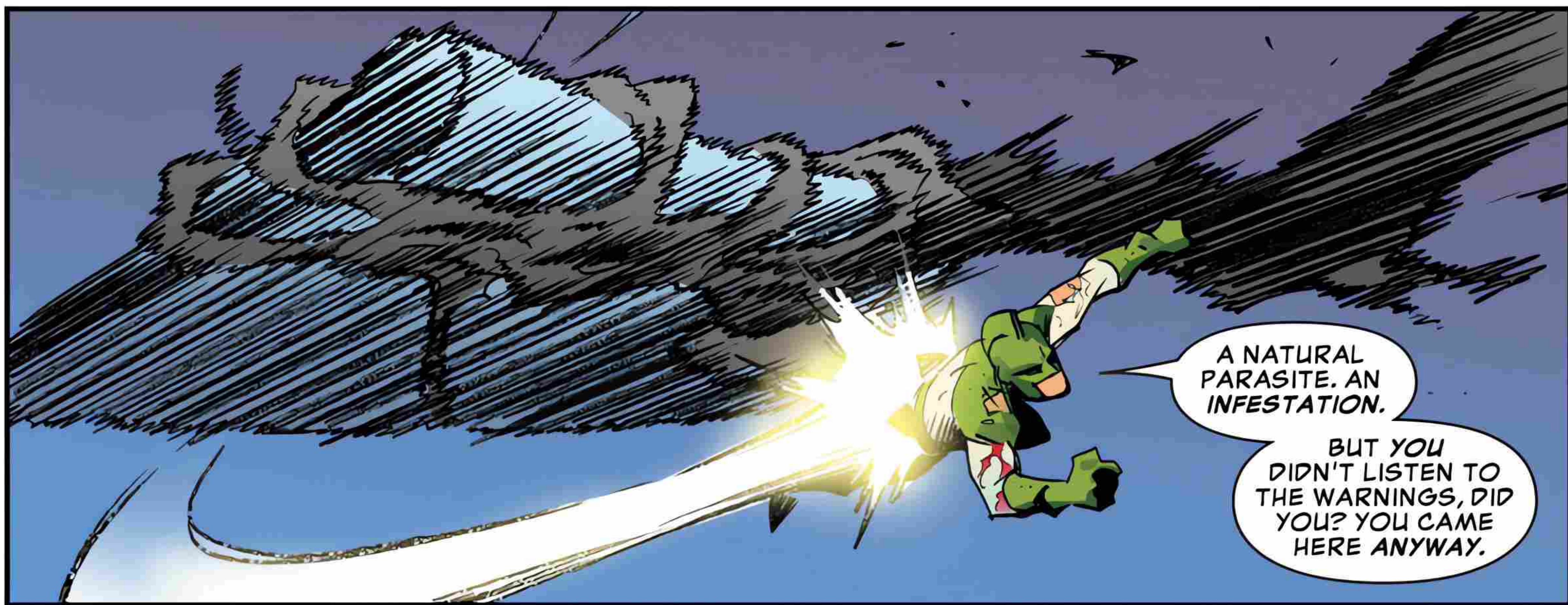
UHHHH!



ALL
THE TREES
HERE ARE *DEAD*.
INFECTED WITH
THE SAME ROT
AND DECAY.



IS THIS THE
ORIGIN OF YOUR
DISEASE? THE *DEADWOODS*?
IS THAT WHY THE YOUNG
SAPLINGS ARE TAUGHT
NEVER TO COME HERE?



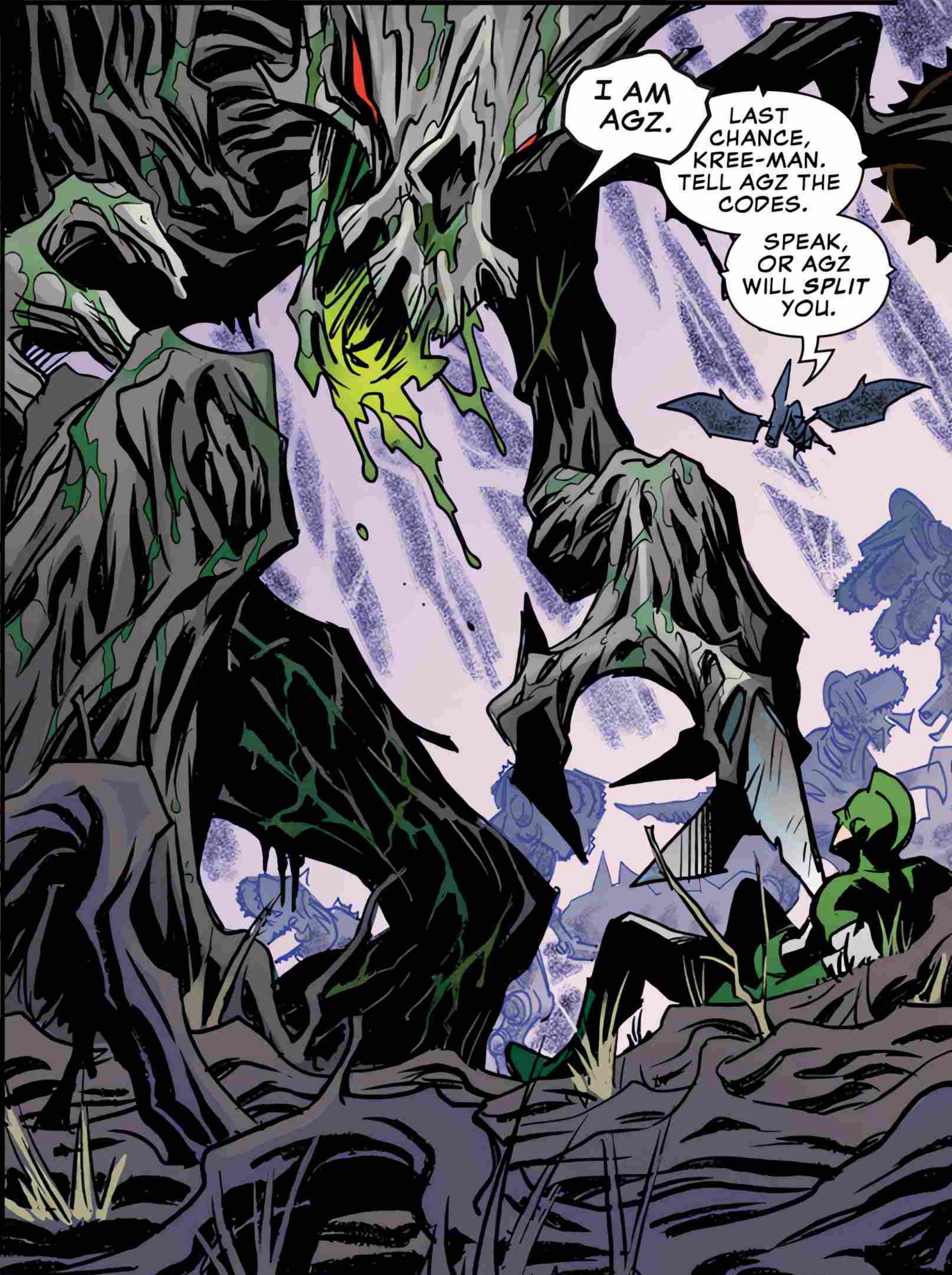
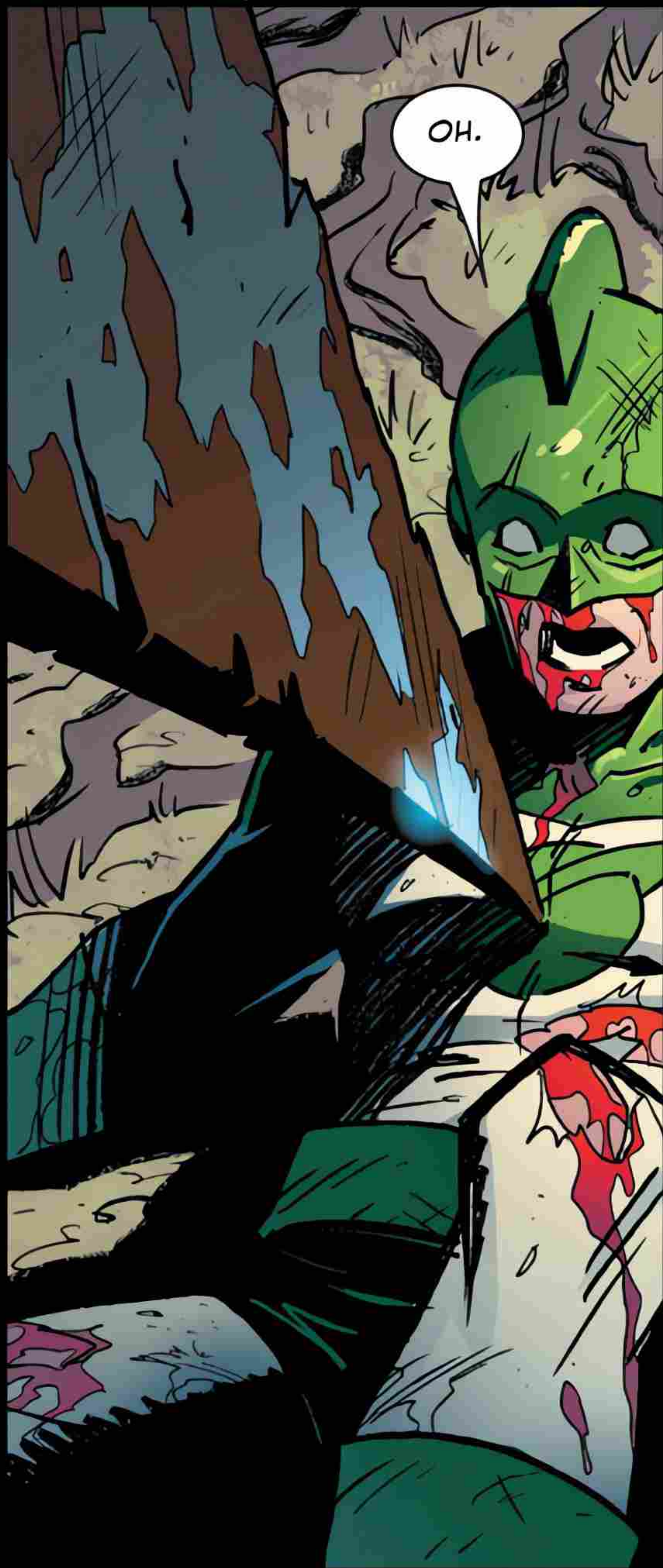
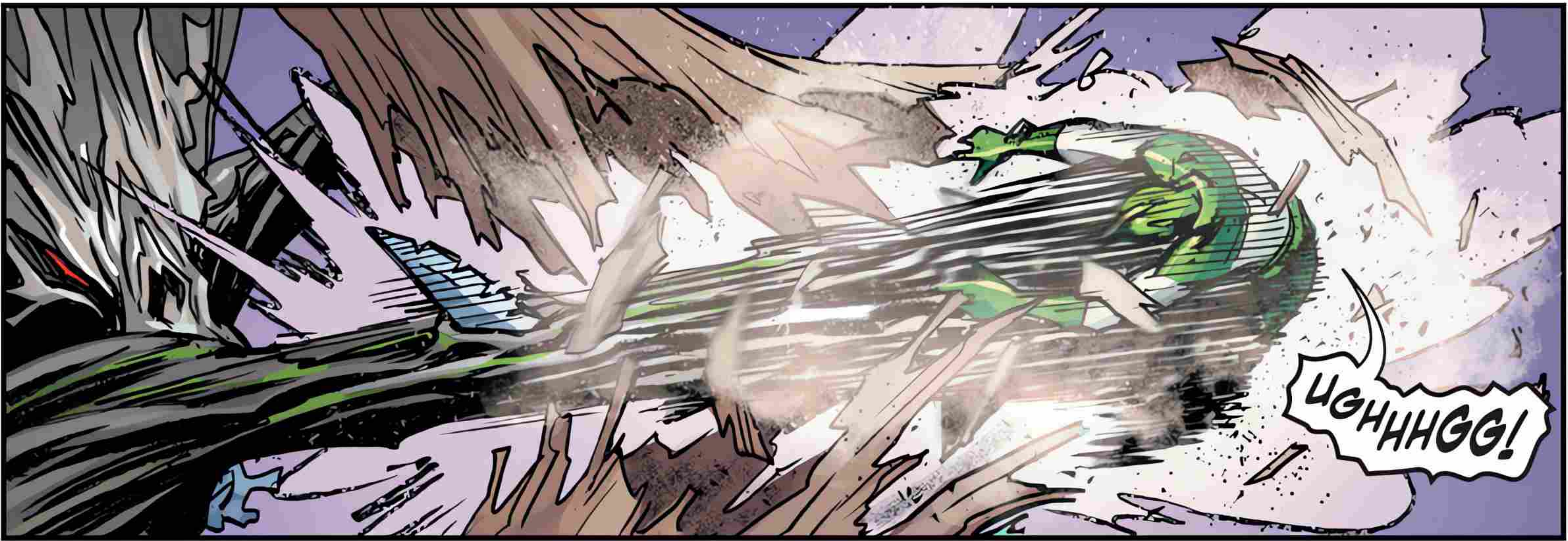
A NATURAL
PARASITE. AN
INFESTATION.

BUT YOU
DIDN'T LISTEN TO
THE WARNINGS, DID
YOU? YOU CAME
HERE ANYWAY.



LOOK WHAT
IT *DID* TO YOU,
AGZ!
IT
MADE YOU A
MONSTER!

ZAHHH
ZAHHH





WHO IS THIS?

I AM GROOT.

THEN I AM HONORED YOU BROUGHT ME HERE.



GRANOPY. MATRIARCH OF THE GREAT FORESTS.

I AM YONDAR OF THE CENTAURI.

I STAND WITH YOUR SAPLING GROOT. I STAND WITH YOUR WORLD. I SEEK TO DEFEND IT AGAINST THE WRATH OF THE SPOILERS.

BUT I NEED YOUR HELP.



WHY DOES SHE NOT ANSWER?

WHY DO ALL THE TREES REMAIN SILENT?

I AM GROOT.



HE SAYS YOU ARE SCARED, GRANOPY. YOU AND ALL THE GREAT TREES.

SCARED OF SPEAKING.

AFRAID TO BE HEARD.

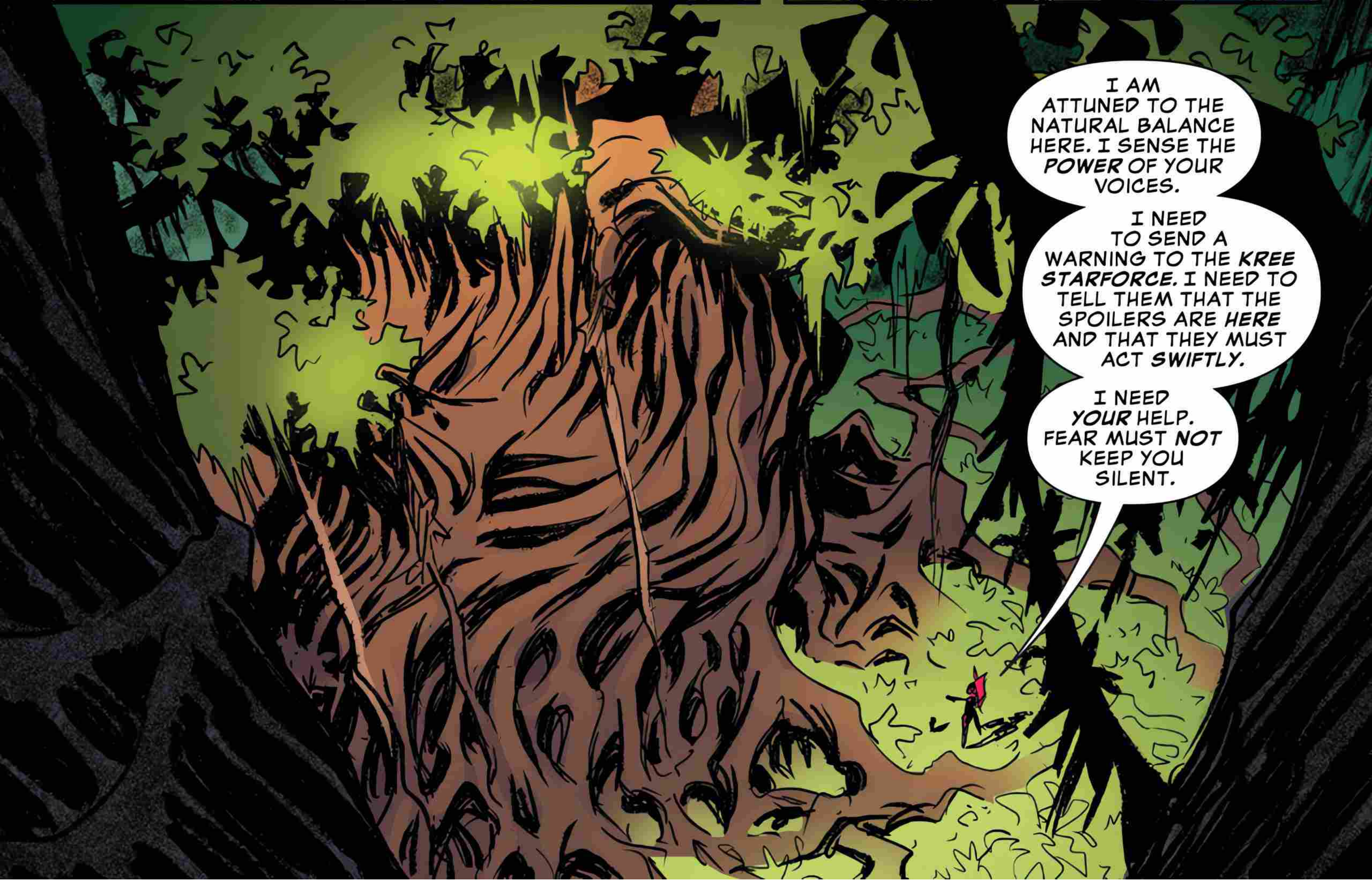
YOU ARE TERRIFIED OF AGZ AND REMAIN SILENT FOR FEAR HE WILL FEED ON YOU NEXT.



YOU DO NOT WANT TO DRAW ATTENTION TO YOURSELVES.

I UNDERSTAND.

BUT YOU MUST SPEAK. YOU MUST BE HEARD.

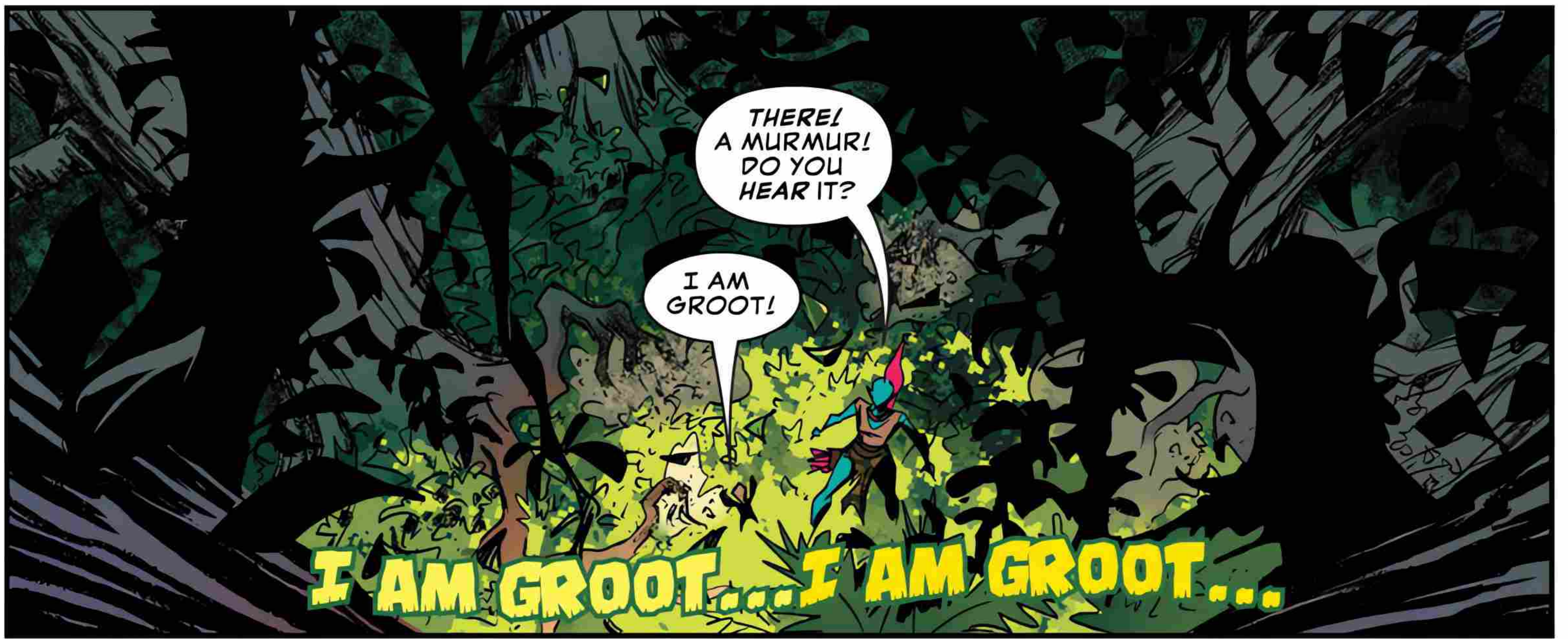


I AM ATTUNED TO THE NATURAL BALANCE HERE. I SENSE THE POWER OF YOUR VOICES.

I NEED TO SEND A WARNING TO THE KREE STARFORCE. I NEED TO TELL THEM THAT THE SPOILERS ARE HERE AND THAT THEY MUST ACT SWIFTLY.

I NEED YOUR HELP. FEAR MUST NOT KEEP YOU SILENT.

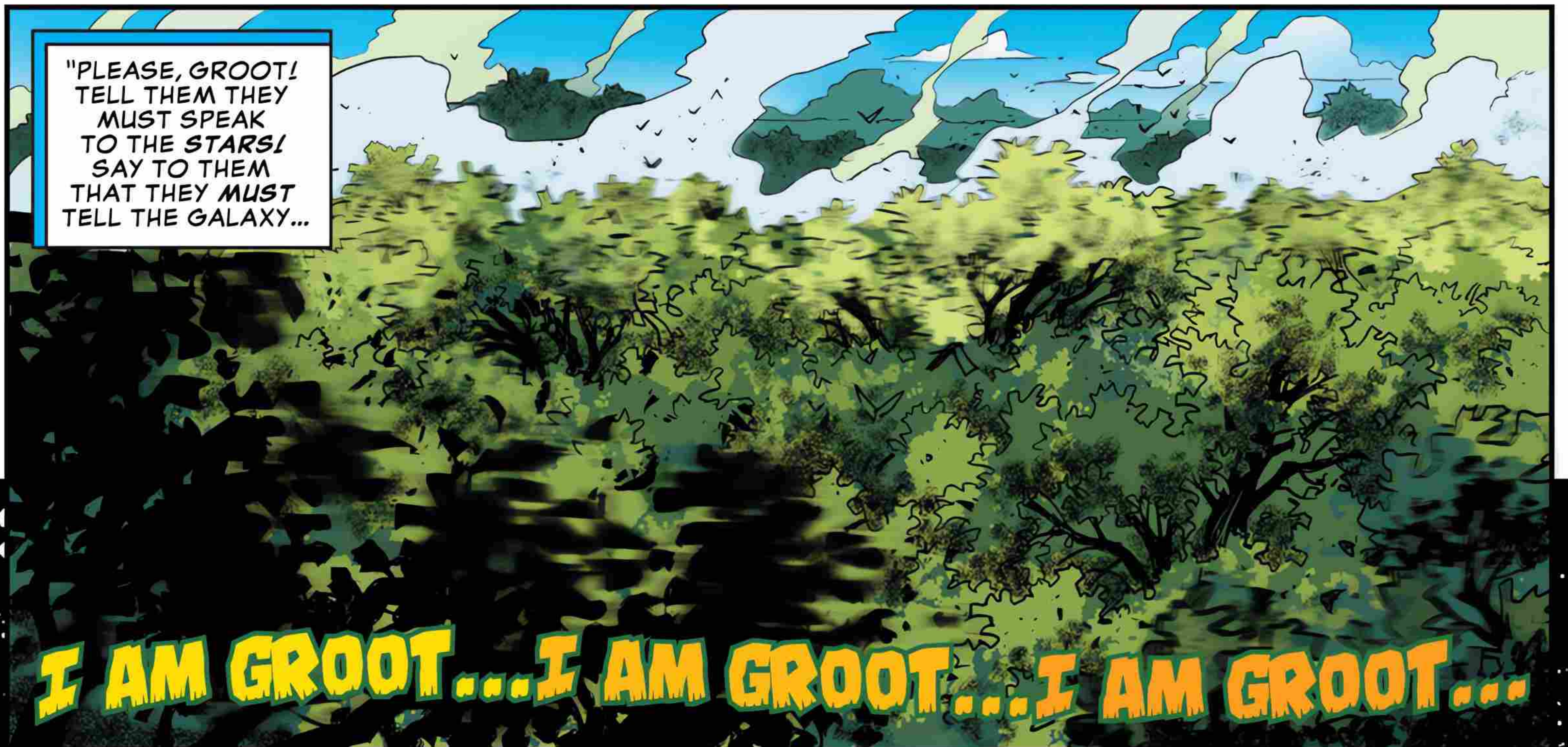




THERE!
A MURMUR!
DO YOU
HEAR IT?

I AM
GROOT!

I AM GROOT... I AM GROOT...



"PLEASE, GROOT!
TELL THEM THEY
MUST SPEAK
TO THE STARS!
SAY TO THEM
THAT THEY MUST
TELL THE GALAXY..."

I AM GROOT... I AM GROOT... I AM GROOT...

"...A TALE TO
ASTONISH."



TO BE CONCLUDED!

NEXT

#4



It's the final battle between Mar-Vell and Agz, and it's not looking too good for the Kree hero. Will Groot finally accept his destiny and step up to be the hero he's meant to be?